

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 19-20, 22-23 and 25-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the Abstract, claims 1, 3, 7-8, 11, 19-20, and 22-23 are amended, claims 18, 21, and 24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to be pursued in a Continuation/Divisional application, and new claims 25-29 are added. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 11-17 are allowed, and that claims 2-5, 7-8, 19-20, and 22-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 3, 7-8, 19-20, and 22-23 have each been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, these claims, along with claims 4-5, which depend from claim 3, should be in condition for allowance. Claim 2 has not been rewritten in independent form at this time for the reasons set forth below.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 6, 10, 18, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,526,854 to Unger, and under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Unger. Claims 18 and 21 are canceled. These rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to claims 1, 6, and 10.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the insulation layer is disposed between the outer case and the inner case of the refrigerator door, and that the external plate

section is removably coupled to the front surface of the outer case. Unger does not disclose or suggest such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1.

Rather, Unger discloses a dispenser for a refrigerator door. The Examiner refers to the “center of item 19” (see Fig. 2 of Unger) as corresponding to the claimed insulation layer and element 28 as corresponding to the claimed external plate. However, element 19 is disclosed by Unger as an insulation layer and thus corresponds to the claimed insulation layer, while element 28 is disclosed by Unger as the sheet metal face of the door. Unger does not disclose or suggest an inner case and an outer case, as well as an insulation layer disposed between the outer case and inner case. Further, Unger does not disclose or suggest an external plate section removably coupled to the front surface of the outer case, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Unger should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 6 and 10, as well as objected to claim 2, are allowable over Unger at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 9 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Unger in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,881,930 to Lee. Claim 24 has been canceled. The rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to claim 9.

Dependent claim 9 is allowable over Unger at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for its added features. Lee fails to overcome the deficiencies of Unger, as it is merely cited for allegedly teaching a guide bar for

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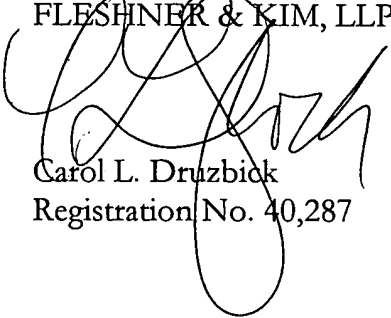
Docket No. **IK-0086**

guiding movement of an activating lever. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 9 over Unger and Lee should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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